

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01  
SOE-02 COME-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-14 L-03  
NSF-02 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11 INT-05 AGRE-00  
/102 W

-----030693 261642Z /62

O 251729Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UV

SUBJECT: DATA FOR THE YEAR 2000 STUDY

REF: STATE 002024

A. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE ISSUES RAISED IN REFTTEL HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED THROUGH COLLABORATION AND DISCUSSIONS WITH FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERSONNEL AT CILSS, WITH THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT, AND WITH AID.

B. FORESTRY: (1) DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CANNOT BE READILY QUANTIFIED BECAUSE IT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS; PEOPLE DO RECOGNIZE ITS EXTENT AND IMPORTANCE BECAUSE THEY FEEL ITS CONSEQUENCES. RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO QUANTIFY IT IN TERMS OF AREA OF DEFORESTED LAND (WHICH DEPENDS ON A DEFINITION OF "DEFORESTED," AND HAS MEANING IN RELATION TO THE PRIOR EQUILIBRIUM DENSITY OF FOREST COVER), ONE CAN ARGUE THAT DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION ARE BETTER MEASURED IN TERMS OF ITS IMPACT ON PEOPLE: THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE MADE HUNGRY BY DECLINING CROP YIELDS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE MADE POORER BY LOSS OF LIVESTOCK, AND THE LOSS REVENUE FROM AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL AS A RESULT OF DECREASED

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PRODUCTIVITY OF THE RESOURCE BASE. IT IS NOT PRESENTLY FEASIBLE TO ADD UP FROM YEAR TO YEAR THE AREA OF "DEFORESTED LAND." AT BEST, ONE CAN SYSTEMATICALLY SAMPLE THE DENSITY AND COMPOSITION (SPECIES PRESENT AND THEIR RELATIVE FREQUENCY) OF THE VEGETATIVE COVER, IN ORDER TO DOCUMENT THE CONDITION AND TREND OF THE VEGETATION, AND LIST WHAT SPECIES FORMERLY ABUNDANT HAVE BECOME SCARCE. MANY SPECIES WHICH PLAY CRUCIAL ROLES IN

PROTECTING AGRICULTURAL HARVESTS, IN MAINTAINING SOIL FERTILITY AND THUS CROP YIELDS, AND IN FORAGE PRODUCTION FOR LIVESTOCK ARE BEING LOST THROUGH DEFORESTATION AND LAND DEGRADATION PROCESSES. SIMILARLY, ONE CANNOT DOCUMENT THE NUMBER OF HECTARES "LOST TO THE DESERT" FROM YEAR TO YEAR, AS THERE IS NO ADVANCING BOUNDARY (FROM EAST TO WEST BELOW THE SAHARA) BETWEEN DESERT AND SAVANNA PASTURE OR FARMLAND. RATHER, DESERTIFICATION IS ALSO A PROCESS REFLECTING THE FACT THAT LAND HAS BEEN EXPLOITED BEYOND ITS CAPACITY TO REGENERATE ITSELF AND TO SUSTAIN ITS PRODUCTIVITY. DECLINES IN THE PRODUCTIVITY OR IN THE BIOMASS OF THE VEGETATION CAN BE DOCUMENTED. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SUCH TREMENDOUS VARIATION WITHIN SMALL AREAS THAT REGIONAL GENERALIZATIONS ARE OF DOUBTFUL VALUE. FOR EXAMPLE, SEVERAL HECTARES IN THE FORESTED LOWLAND MAY BE MORE PRODUCTIVE AND REMAIN SO IN SPITE OF INCREASED USE, WHILE SEVERAL ADJACENT HECTARES OF ERODED UPLANDS ARE MUCH LESS PRODUCTIVE AND MAY LOSE FIFTY CENT OF THEIR POTENTIAL PRODUCTIVITY AS A RESULT OF SMALL INCREASES IN THE INTENSITY OF USE.

(2) REGARDING FORESTRY PRACTICES, THE GOUV FOREST SERVICE PERSONNEL PLAY A PROTECTIVE ROLE EXCLUSIVELY--I.E. THEY ONLY ATTEMPT TO REGULATE THE CUT ON ESSENTIALLY UNMANAGED FORESTLAND BY PROHIBITING THE TAKING OF LIVE WOOD. THERE ARE LESS THAN 500 HECTARES OF PLANTATIONS MORE THAN 20 YEARS OLD. THESE HAVE NOT BEEN MANAGED, THAT IS, THERE HAS BEEN NO FIRE PROTECTION, NO THINNING, NO PLANNED HARVESTING. SINCE 1970, SEVERAL HUNDRED

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HECTARES OF PLANTATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, BUT AGAIN THERE IS LITTLE IN PLACE (PERSONNEL, OPERATING BUDGETS, EQUIPMENT, MARKETING OUTLETS) WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEIR LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT. SOME NATURAL FOREST STANDS HAVE BEEN INVENTORIED. HOWEVER, NO TREATMENTS HAVE BEEN PRESCRIBED OR IMPLEMENTED EXCEPT ON AN EXPERIMENTAL SCALE. IN BRIEF, FOREST MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY IN GENERAL HAS YET TO BE PRACTICED IN UPPER VOLTA ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE. BEFORE IT CAN BE DONE, MUCH MORE MUST BE LEARNED ABOUT REGENERATING LOCAL SPECIES AND NATURAL STANDS, ABOUT THE SILVICULTURE OF MIXED SPECIES/SAVANNA FORESTLAND, AND ABOUT THE CONCEPTS OF PLANNED HARVESTS AND REGENERATION.

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(3) REGARDING EFFECTIVE REFORESTATION, ONLY SEVERAL HUNDRED HECTARES, MOSTLY EUCALYPTUS AND GMELINA ARBOREA, HAD BEEN PLANTED PRIOR TO 1974. BETWEEN 1974 AND 1977, 2693 HA. HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN FOUR DIFFERENT PROJECTS. BY 1980 THE GOUV PLANS TO ESTABLISH OVER 5000 HECTARES OF MECHANIZED PLANTATIONS FOR FIREWOOD PRODUCTION. IN SUMMARY, WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT POPULATION GROWTHS IN UPPER VOLTA, LACK OF FIREWOOD PLANTATIONS IN THE FACE OF GROWING DEMAND, MISUSE OF OVERUSE OF EXISTING RESOURCES, AND CLIMATIC DISASTERS HAVE LED TO A CONDITION WHERE FOREST RESOURCES IN UPPER VOLTA MUST BE CHARACTERIZED AS "SEVERELY STRESSED."

(4) THE GOUV HAS INITIATED OR ATTEMPTED TO INITIATE PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE ITS INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO IMPROVE FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. GOUV HAS UNDERTAKEN PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THE FORESTRY SCHOOL STUDENT CAPACITY AND HAS DEVELOPED TRAINING PROGRAMS TO ENABLE THE FOREST SERVICE TO ABSORB AND MANAGE LARGER SCALE REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS. PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES HAVE SUFFERED FROM LACK OF OPERATING FUNDS AND LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, PARTICULARLY AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL.

C. SOIL: 1) PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IS BEING LOST

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ANNUALLY ON A LARGE SCALE FROM EROSION, LATERIZATION AND DESERTIFICATION. SINCE ONLY 6700 HECTARES ARE UNDER IRRIGATION IN U.V., THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE DAMAGE FROM SALINIZATION OR WATERLOGGING.

2) SOIL FERTILITY HAS BEEN MAINTAINED PRIMARILY THROUGH SPARSE AND SPORADIC SPREADING OF MANURE IN FIELDS CLOSE TO HOMESTEADS AND THROUGH A SYSTEM OF CROP ROTATION THAT IS FREQUENTLY VIOLATED BY THE EXIGENCIES OF PRESSURES TO MEET FOOD PRODUCTION NECESSITIES.

D. LAND DEVELOPMENT: UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GOUV'S AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLTA VALLEYS (AVV), A PROGRAM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO FACILITATE SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF AREAS CLEARED OF THE BLACK FLY WHICH TRANSMITS ONCHOCERCIASIS (RIVER BLINDNESS). USING THIS PROGRAM AS AN EXAMPLE OF BRINGING AN ADDITIONAL HECTARE OF LAND INTO CULTIVATION, WE ESTIMATE THE COSTS TO BE ABOUT DOLS 1450 PER HECTARE. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS AN AVV PROGRAM THAT COSTS ABOUT 14,500 TO SETTLE A FAMILY INTO A RIVER BASIN AND THE FAMILY BRINGS ABOUT TEN HECTARES INTO PRODUCTION. THIS AVV FAMILY SETTLEMENT PROGRAM IS A COSTLY METHOD OF BRINGING NEW LAND INTO PRODUCTION IN U.V. THE COSTS OF WHICH ARE BORNE AS A PUBLIC EXPENDITURE. IN CONTRAST WITH THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AVV PROGRAM IS SPONTANEOUS SETTLEMENT, RESETTLEMENT AND EXPANSION OF ARABLE LAND IN UV. ALTHOUGH RELIABLE COST-PER-HECTARE FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SPONTANEOUS SETTLEMENT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE AVV EXAMPLE CITED. IN ADDITION, THE COSTS WOULD BE PRIVATE RATHER THAN PUBLIC EXPENDITURES.

3. CROP YIELD GAINS: RELIABLE DATA IN UPPER VOLTA IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO STATE WITH AUTHORITY HOW MUCH OF CROP PRODUCTION YIELD GAINS ARE ATTAINABLE FROM OR ATTRIBUTED TO TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE. ONE REASON IS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ABSENCE OF BASE LINE INFORMATION AND UNEVEN DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES. ANOTHER REASON IS THAT PRODUCTION YIELDS HAVE FLUCTUATED WIDELY OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS, WITH DECLINES REGISTERED IN THE EARLY AND MID-SEVENTIES BECAUSE OF THE DROUGHT. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS ABOUT A TWENTY PERCENT CROP PRODUCTION YIELD GAINS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES SUCH AS INTRODUCTION OF OR IMPROVED USE OF FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES, ANIMAL TRACTION, IRRIGATION, TIMING AND DENSITY OF PRODUCTION, ETC. PLANNING PROJECTIONS TO THE YEAR 2000 BY THE GOUV CALL FOR DOUBLING CROP PRODUCTION. GOUV STRATEGY TO DOUBLE PRODUCTION WOULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, NEW AND IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY, REDUCING THE VULNERABILITY OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION TO DROUGHT, AND BY OPENING NEW LANDS TO CULTIVATION. GRAHAM

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